

Cielo Carolina



2004 BRYAN FELLOW

Mark Sanders

HOMETOWN: Fayetteville, N.C.

MAJOR/DEGREE:

Master of Art in Teaching,
Class of 2005

PROJECT TITLE: Cielo Carolina

FACULTY MENTOR:

Nancy Aaron,
Department of Romance
Languages

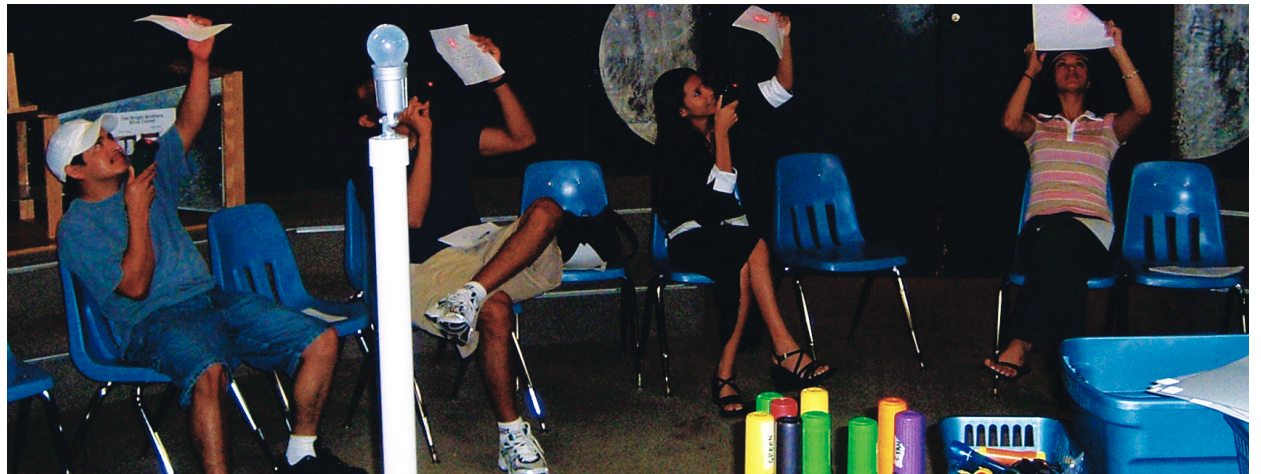
COMMUNITY PARTNER:

Morehead Planetarium and
Science Center

PROJECT LOCATION:

Orange and Durham counties

“Cielo Carolina was a great experience. I enjoyed going into the community and seeing people fill with excitement as I told them that we had classes for their (Spanish-speaking) kids to allow them a fraction of the opportunities that students who speak English get every day. Cielo Carolina is a way to connect the university back to the entire community.”



Cielo Carolina was created to provide the local Spanish-speaking community with a family-centered educational experience at the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center (MPSC), through the translation of exhibits, the website and classes in Spanish.

Project Goals

- Make the MPSC accessible to the Spanish-speaking community through translation of exhibits and pertinent web pages.
- Provide a set of science classes in Spanish for all ages.

The first phase of the project was to provide special Saturday classes for different ages ranging from elementary students to adults. I began in June with a class on the moon for elementary students. The class was a great success as all who attended learned a great deal about the moon's phases as well as what it would be like to live on the moon. The second class in July was for middle school students and dealt with the planets, comets, and everything else in the solar system. The final class in August for high school students and adults dealt with an introduction of sky watching.

One of the best things that happened during the project was talking to one of the mothers of the elementary students who came to the class. She told me that she never knew why the moon changed shapes before

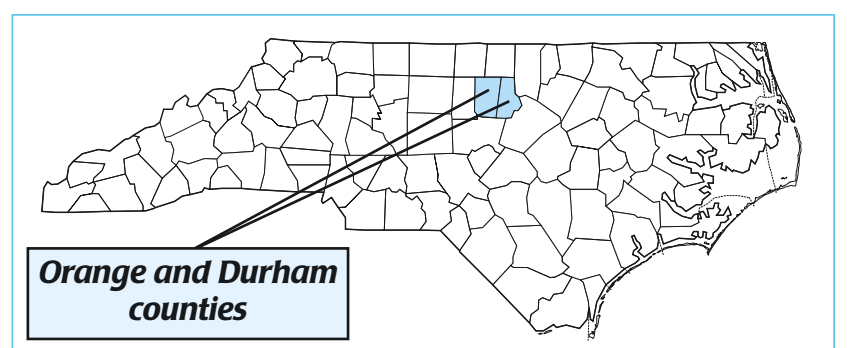
and that she had learned a lot by attending the class.

The second phase of the project was aimed to provide a more permanent effect on the Spanish-speaking visitors at the MPSC. I worked with Dr. Aaron and others in translating the major scientific exhibits as well as pertinent sites on the MPSC web page. With the installation of both phases, I hope that MPSC will become an educational experience available to all Spanish speakers in the local area and all over the state.

I hope that this project provides a base for not only the MPSC, but for other



organizations in the community to expand their efforts to include the Spanish-speaking community. The project taught me that while the job of making a place accommodating for a different segment of the population is not easy, it is definitely worth every effort.



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